

Germany 1848-1894



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Germany, 1815

Prussia – Precursor to a United Germany

- One of the two major German states, the other being Austria
- Led by Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck, appointed 1862
- Under Bismarck's leadership, Prussia was able to isolate Austria and seize the role of dominant German state



Prussia - 1848



- ❧ In the wake of the failed Frankfurt Assembly, Prussia experienced revolts from 1848-1849
- ❧ Prussia framed a constitution that was in theory democratic, instituting universal male suffrage with a bicameral legislature. But in practice, the biggest taxpayers were allowed the most seats in the lower house, and the executive branch was still dominant.

Prussia vs. Austria



- ❧ Prussia had the advantage of a homogeneous population, mostly German
- ❧ In 1834, Prussia established *Zollverein*, a tariff union that by 1853 included all German states except Austria. Austria was isolated and as a result suffered economically.
- ❧ Bismarck would act on these conditions to further push Austria out of German affairs

1861 – King William I Comes to Power



- ❧ With the death of King William IV, King William I takes the throne
- ❧ King William I:
 - ❧ Planned to double the size of the army
 - ❧ Planned to institute three years of military service for young men
 - ❧ Dismissed Parliament, held new elections, but was still unable to get approval for planned military spending
- ❧ Appointed Otto von Bismarck as Prime Minister in 1862



Otto von Bismarck (1862-1890)



- Often regarded as the foremost practitioner of *Realpolitik*
- Previous diplomat to Russia, England, and France
- Machiavellian policies



Otto von Bismarck



- ❧ From 1862 to 1866, Bismarck governed Prussia by ignoring Parliament. e.g. when Bismarck resubmitted the army appropriations bill and was again rejected, he went ahead and organized army with tax money anyway.
- ❧ From 1863-1871, Bismarck waged three important wars for Prussia that would bring about the unification of Germany

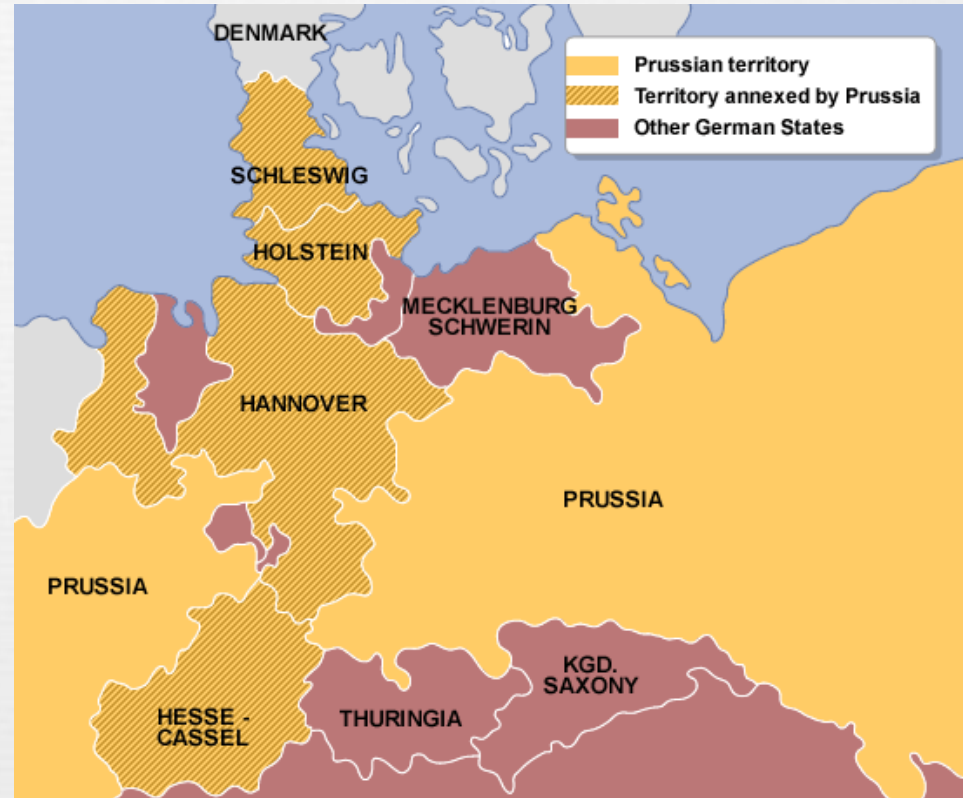
Military Philosophy – “iron and blood”



- ❧ “Germany does not look to Prussia’s liberalism but to her power...Not by speeches and majorities will the great question of the day be decided-but by **iron and blood**” – Bismarck 1862
- ❧ Army appropriation bill
 - ❧ Increase taxes to revamp military
- ❧ Ignored parliament rejection and acted independently, setting precedent for the next 4 years
- ❧ Poor domestic policy was overshadowed by international success

Danish War (1864)

1. Frederick VII of Denmark died
2. Dispute between Christian IX of Denmark and Frederick von Augustenburg
3. Prussian public wanted these territories to remain German
4. Instead of following the Diet of the German Confederation's wishes for a unified German attack, Bismarck joined with Austria and defeated Denmark
5. Prussia took Schleswig and Austria took Holstein
6. Increased Prussian control over Northern German states and excluding Austria from affairs



Austro-Prussian War (1866)

1. Isolate Austria from Russia, France, and Italy
 2. Claimed Austria had violated Schleswig-Holstein agreement and moved in to occupy Holstein
 3. Effectiveness of Prussian military proved decisive (better weapons, tactics, and railways)
 4. Battle of Königgrätz (Sadowa) Austria was defeated
 5. Austria only lost Italian territory, but was excluded from German politics
- Northern German Confederation organized and Southern states (Catholic) signed military agreements
7. Prussia annexed Schleswig, Holstein, Frankfurt, Hanover, Hesse-Kassel (or Hesse-Cassel), and Nassau

∞ Importance

- ∞ Bismarck stops invasion of Austria and Vienna as well as a harsh peace treaty to make sure Austria doesn't become bitter
- ∞ Prussia now dominated German politics
- ∞ Reigned in liberals and legalized arms appropriation taxes
- ∞ Bismarck now chancellor of German Confederation



Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)



1. France was ready to go to war due to failures of Napoleon II
2. Throne of Spain offered to a Hohenzollern
3. Prussian king forced to remove his support and apologize to France
4. Bismarck embellished apology provoking war
5. Southern states joined war and in 1870 French army and Napoleon were captured, but fighting continued until 1871
6. Peace of Paris – France paid 5 billion francs (1 billion dollars) and lost Alsace-Lorraine

∞ Importance

- ∞ Southern states join Confederation
- ∞ Alsace continues conflict
- ∞ On January 18, 1871 at Versailles, William I was crowned Kaiser of Second German Empire
- ∞ Prussia became Germany
- ∞ Germany became the strongest power on the Continent, altering balance of power



Alsace-Lorraine

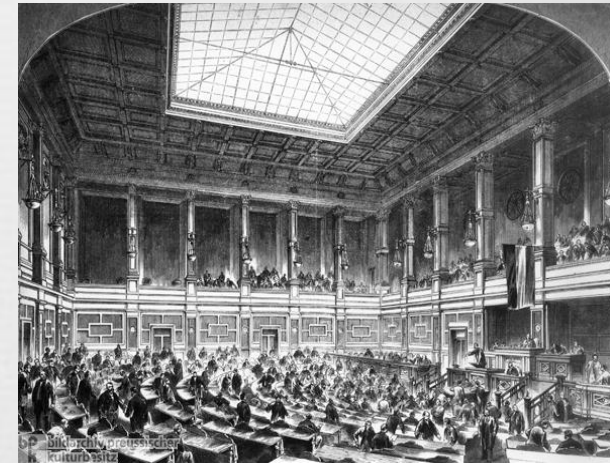
- ❧ Germany gains possession of Alsace-Lorraine from the Treaty of Paris that ended the Franco-Prussian War
- ❧ Much unrest in this region due to a sizable French population and dissatisfaction with new German government



Government of the New Germany



- ❧ The new German constitution created a federal system with a bicameral legislature
 - ❧ The Bundesrat (upper house) was comprised of the twenty five states that made up Germany (each state kept its own king, post office, and army)
 - ❧ The Reichstag (lower house) was elected by universal male suffrage, but its say in the workings of the Germany government was questionable at best
 - ❧ Ministers of government held much greater sway, and were answerable only to the Emperor, who controlled the armed forces, foreign policy, and internal administration



Political Democracy?



- ❧ No.
- ❧ Due primarily to the presence of the army and the Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, the German system did not grow until true political democracy
 - ❧ The German army refused to be controlled by the Reichstag, and kept its general staff responsible exclusively to the Emperor
 - ❧ Junker landowners, who would naturally be loyal to the Emperor, were the primary pool of officers
 - ❧ Military tradition (derived from Prussian origins) caused a hierarchical mindset to pervade the German army, and through it, German society
- ❧ Bismarck worked tirelessly to centralize German authority, creating an efficient governmental machine with the Emperor at its helm

Bismarck and the Social Democrats



- ❧ Bismarck worked with the liberals immediately after the unification of Germany
 - ❧ Created common codes of criminal and commercial law, and by doing so centralized authority in the infant power.
 - ❧ Also joined in an attack of the Catholic Church, the *Kulturkampf* (see slide)
- ❧ The Prime Minister abruptly changed gears in 1878, separating himself from the liberals and working towards the exclusion of socialists
 - ❧ Bismarck saw the Social Democratic Party as a grave danger to national unity and economic stability, as they opposed nationalism, capitalism, and monarchy
 - ❧ Outlawed the Party in 1878, limiting socialist meetings and publications
 - ❧ Also passed laws that established benefits for sick or disabled workers, as well as old-age pensions. This social security system, though far from perfect, was one of the most progressive of its day, and designed with the express purpose of keeping workers away from socialist ideas
- ❧ In the end, Bismarck's measures were not enough to check the growth of the Social Democratic Party, and he was dismissed in 1890

1870 - Kulturekampf



- ❧ Translates to “battle for civilization”
- ❧ Bismarck’s attack on the Catholic Church
 - ❧ Jesuits expelled from country
 - ❧ Catholic worship restricted
 - ❧ Some priests were arrested and some emigrated, and Catholic worship was restricted. The government recognized only civil marriage, and Catholics were excluded from high civil service positions.

Economy



- ❧ Germany was able to piggyback on the progress of the UK
- ❧ 1870 - Germany was the primary beneficiary of the Second Industrial Revolution